



Legal Services During the MEB/PEB Processes

Medical Evaluation Board (MEB) Outreach Counsel provides the following services throughout the MEB and PEB processes:

- a. **General Information.** An MEB Outreach Counsel is available to provide information and advocacy to Soldiers during the MEB/PEB processes: once a Soldier receives a P3 Profile, Service Members can receive counsel from our office. As soon as a Soldier enters the MEB system, he or she should consult with us individually. Soldiers will learn what our office can do for them during each step in the process. For Soldiers who are not co-located with the MEB Outreach Counsel's office or who are in CBHCOs (Community Based Healthcare Organizations), please contact our office to arrange an appointment for a telephone consultation.
- b. **Legal counseling designed to help the Soldier accomplish specific goals.** Soldiers should determine what result they want from the system. In some cases, Soldiers will want additional medical treatment. Some will want to get out of the Army and on with their lives as soon as possible. Others will want to be found "Fit for duty," and returned to military duty. Some will want ratings for different conditions. Some will want higher ratings for rated conditions. Whatever the goal, an MEB Outreach Counsel is available to help you identify goals and develop strategies for achieving them through the MEB and PEB processes.
- c. **Representation during the MEB & Physical Evaluation Board (PEB) Process.** A MEB Outreach Counsel is available to provide representation to Soldiers throughout the Army Physical Disability Evaluation System. We can counsel you through the MEB process and assist with MEB rebuttals. Cases referred to the PEB by the MEB are informally adjudicated by the PEB first. The PEB considers the Soldier's DA Form 3947 and Narrative Summary as well as the Soldier's commander's statement, profile, recent APFTs, and other performance and personnel documents. The PEB determines: 1) which conditions are "unfitting" (i.e. prevent the Soldier from performing PMOS duties and/or basic Soldier skills); 2) which unfitting conditions are compensable; and 3) what rating is appropriate for each compensable unfitting condition. The PEB also determines if any of the Soldier's unfitting conditions are combat related for entitlement to tax-free benefits. The PEB's informal findings are documented on a DA Form 199 and provided to the Soldier. The Soldier may agree with the informal findings; disagree with the findings and submit a written statement; or disagree and request a formal hearing with representation by Soldiers Counsel (located at Fort Lewis, WA). If a Soldier elects to disagree and submit a written appeal, the MEB Outreach Counsel can assist with the written appeal. If a Soldier elects a formal hearing, the MEB Outreach Counsel can help the Soldier identify and gather evidence which might support the accomplishment of the Soldier's goals and be presented as evidence to the PEB during the Soldier's formal hearing, or as part of the Soldier's written appeal.

Throughout this process, Soldiers will be forced to make many tough decisions that have significant legal consequences. The MEB Outreach Counsel's Office is here to help.

The Fort Knox MEB Counsel's Office is located at:

Office of the Staff Judge Advocate

3rd Avenue

Pike Hall, Building 1310, Room 223a

Fort Knox, KY 40121

Phone: (502) 624-2603 Email address: knox.sja.meboutreach@conus.army.mil